



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

CHAIRMAN

May 4, 2004

The Honorable John W. Olver
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olver:

I am responding on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to your letter dated April 1, 2004, regarding the request by Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee, LLC, and Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy), to amend the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station license to increase the power level of the facility. In your letter, you requested that the NRC condition approval of any power uprate at Vermont Yankee upon performance of an independent engineering assessment, as proposed by the Vermont Public Service Board.

On May 4, 2004, I sent a letter to the Vermont Public Service Board explaining the NRC's approach in response to their request for an independent engineering assessment. I enclose a copy of that letter for your information. The NRC plans to use an improved engineering inspection at Vermont Yankee, as described in the enclosed letter. The NRC staff has concluded that the detailed technical review, combined with the inspections prescribed by the reactor oversight process, as enhanced by a new engineering inspection, is the most effective method of informing its decision on whether Vermont Yankee could safely operate under uprated power conditions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure:
Letter to the Vermont Public Service Board